SUBTERRANEA BRITANNICA - 29 APRIL 1985 - NEWSLETTER 4

FROM THE CHAIRMAN & THE SECRETARY

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DEAR MEMBERS

STOP PRESS - STUDY WEEKEND - IRONBRIDGE & SHROPSHIRE

Preliminary details are enclosed for this year's study weekend, 14 - 16 June, based at Ironbridge. Our 1979 visit to Ironbridge was judged outstandingly successful by those who attended - so book now!

COMMITTEE CHANGES

Val Bannister has left the committee, having completed her course at Canterbury and commenced employment. Tony and Margaret Howells have joined the committee.

PRESENTATION TO SYLVIA BEAMON

Members expressed their thanks to Sylvia Beamon for her ten years service to SB during the January Cambridge Symposium, when Chairman Paul Sowan presented her with a cheque for forty-five pounds 50p on their behalf.

Sylvia writes:

> I would like to thank all those members who kindly contributed to the presentation cheque which I received at the last Conference Day and to say how much I appreciated the gesture. I am going to buy some form of note-taking machine, of which I think I will make good use.

CROYDON STONE QUARRY SYMPOSIUM

The Symposium, held on Saturday 16 March 1985, was a great success, with an estimated 150 attending. It is hoped the Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society, which organised the event, will be able to publish the papers delivered. The programme of field visits on the Sunday was well supported, too.

INTERNATIONAL STONE QUARRY SYMPOSIUM - MAASTRICHT, AUGUST 1986

Keep the first week or two of August free for this. Details in due course.

ANOTHER STONE QUARRY SYMPOSIUM at CROYDON?

The 16 March Symposium concentrated on geological and archaeological aspects of the east Surrey and other south eastern quarries and stones. Time did not allow much consideration of documentary sources, architectural evidence, etc. So possibly there is the scope for a further meeting?

INSURANCE (3RD PARTY)

Members should be aware that their insurance cover, arranged by SB through the National Association of Mining History Organisations and the British Cave Research Association, is for THIRD PARTY LIABILITY ONLY. They should ensure they have their OWN personal accident and other insurance as required.

DRIVING THE CLAY CROSS TUNNEL

This book, by Cliff Williams, deals mainly with the social aspects of the driving of the Clay Cross tunnel on the North Midland Railway between Derby and Leeds, 1836 - 39, although some details of the tunnel construction and related nearby coal-mining are given. The book is available from Scarthin Books, Cromford, Derbyshire.

INDEX TO BULLETINS 1 - 20

The GENERAL INDEX to BULLETINS 1 - 20 (1975 - 1984) is now published and is being distributed with Bulletin 21. Enquiries to Barbara Tadd, who holds stocks.

BACK ISSUES OF BULLETINS

Barbara can supply back issues of these at the following rates:

Bulletins 1 - 12 are 68p each, inclusive of postage and packing

Bulletins 13 - 21 are 88p each, inclusive

Proceedings of the Cambridge International Conference (Bulletin Supplement 1) are One pound 72p each, inclusive

Newsletters 1 - 3 are 15p each (to cover postage) whilst stocks last.

CAVES AND TUNNELS IN SOUTH-EAST ENGLAND (PART 6)

Harry Pearman's series of this title continues with the appearance of part 6 as RECORDS of the CHELSEA SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, volume 14 (1984)

This part contains 59 pages, and deals with sites in Kent such as 'Dave's Cave' at Cowden; Chilton farmhouse tunnel; an underground shelter at Gillingham; the recent Channel Tunnel works (1970s); Dover Castle sites; fullers earth mines near Maidstone; etc. Surrey sites include the Foxenden Quarry shelter at Guildford; the Moat House tunnels and ice-house at the same place; and Carew Manor at Beddington. Sussex is represented by entries for the Pulborough sand mines, the Snape iron mine, and minor sites. Particularly welcome in this edition is a large collection of sites in counties north of the Thames - especially a crop of chalk mine details collected from the official mining records, although many of the exact locations appear to have been lost. There is a lengthy list of recent relevant books and papers, and the volume is as usual fully illustrated with maps and plans and an excellent index. Copies may be obtained for two pounds 50p (inclusive of postage) from Bob Dobson, 4 Lancing Court, Crawley Road, HORSHAM, West Sussex.

CODE OF PRACTICE for MINE EXPLORATION

The National Association of Mining History Organisations (NAMHO), of which SB is a corporate member, is compiling for eventual publication and general distribution a document: NAMHO Guidelines - Code of Practice for Mine Exploration.

NAMHO 4th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE - MATLOCK BATH - 31 MAY - 3 JUNE 1985

Previous NAMHO conferences - all extremely successful and worthwhile - have been held at the open-air industrial museum at Beamish (Durham); the Ironbridge Gorge Museum (Shropshire); and the Leeds Industrial Museum (Yorkshire.)

Your sometime secretary, now chairman, has represented SB at all of these, and expects to make the visit to Matlock Bath as well. But it would be good to see some other SB members.

This year the local organisation is by the Peak District Mines Historical Society Ltd., and the conference will be based at the Mining Museum at the Pavilion in Matlock Bath.

For details and an application form, send SAE to:

Mr. A. Mutter
c/o Peak District Mining Museum
Grand Pavilion
MATLOCK BATH
Derbyshire DE4 3NR

MONKTON FARLEIGH MINE - EUROPE'S LARGEST UNDERGROUND AMMUNITION DUMP

'For the first time ever', the handout says, 'the WW2 secret underground complex will be open to the public.'

'Open every weekend ... from 10 am to 5 pm ... admission adults one pound 50p, children one pound'

The mine is just west of Monkton Farleigh village, although 'there is no access to the site' through the village. For further details, telephone BATH 852400.

BOOK BARGAINS

Remaindered books of possible interest to members, available from Thomas Thorp's bookshop, 170 High Street, GUILDFORD, Surrey GU1 3HP (Guildford (0483) 62770). From Catalogue R22 ...

1272 Naomi Miller (1982) Heavenly caves. Reflections on the garden grotto. Allen & Unwin - Four pounds 95p.

1912 Norman Bezzant (1980) Out of the rock. The use of the limestone of Wessex from Roman times to the present. Heinemann - Three pounds 95p (from 10.50)

1913 Harriet Crawford (1979) Subterranean Britain. Aspects of underground archaeology. Baker - Two pounds 50p (from 7.95)

CAMBRIDGE CONFERENCE

Note the date for the next Cambridge Conference - 19 October 1985. Details later.

BULLETIN

At a recent committee meeting it was suggested that, now that we have a Newsletter for announcements and ephemeral items, we might save some work and postage by having a single, more substantial, Bulletin each year, containing main articles and research notes. What do members think?

AUGUR

The Committee have decided to commence purchase of a soil augur, using the balance of funds remaining from the 1984 Lloyds Bank grant, the photographic survey having cost (to date) less than had been estimated.

INTERNATIONAL LIAISON

Eef Smitshuysen, from Maastricht, is visiting east Surrey 3rd - 5th May to see the stone quarries; he is aware he will find this more like 'real caving' than he is used to in Zuid Limburg!